

1 **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14**

2 (By Delegates Hamilton, Ireland, Romine,
3 Andes, Rowan, Sobonya and Duke)

4
5 [Introduced January 12, 2011; referred to the
6 Committee on Constitutional Revision then the
7 Judiciary.]

8
9
10 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West
11 Virginia, amending article III thereof, by adding thereto a
12 new section, designated section twenty-three, relating to
13 defining what constitutes a valid and recognized marriage in
14 this state; numbering and designating such proposed amendment;
15 and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such
16 proposed amendment.

17 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia, two thirds of*
18 *the members elected to each house agreeing thereto:*

19 That the question of ratification or rejection of an amendment
20 to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia be submitted to
21 the voters of the state at the next general election to be held in
22 the year 2012 and, which proposed amendment is that article III
23 thereof be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated
24 section twenty-three thereof, to read as follows:

25 **ARTICLE III. BILL OF RIGHTS.**

1 **§23. Definition of marriage.**

2 Marriage, to be valid and recognized in the State of West
3 Virginia, shall consist only of the legal union between one man and
4 one woman. Neither this Constitution, nor any other provision of
5 law shall be construed to require that marital status, or the legal
6 incidents thereof, be conferred upon any other domestic union that
7 intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance or
8 effect of marriage.

9 *Resolved further, That in accordance with the provisions of*
10 *article eleven, chapter three of the Code of West Virginia, 1931,*
11 *as amended, such proposed amendment is hereby numbered "Amendment*
12 *1" and designated as the "Defense of Marriage Amendment" and the*
13 *purpose of the proposed amendment is summarized as follows: "To*
14 *amend the Constitution of the State of West Virginia to clearly and*
15 *unequivocally define that the only valid and recognized marriage in*
16 *the State of West Virginia shall be the legal union between one man*
17 *and one woman."*

NOTE: The purpose of this resolution is to amend the State Constitution to clearly define what the laws of this state recognize as a valid marriage: Only the legal union between one man and one woman.

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.